

TOP SECRET RUFF

HANDLE VIA
TALENT-KEYHOLE Approved For Release 2002/08/07 : CIA-RDP81T00990R000100150039-5
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IAD - 16/66
15 March 1966

Copy No. 3

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant for Operations

SUBJECT : Estimating Crop Yields

REFERENCE : IAD Memorandum for the Record - 4 June 1965 (attached)

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1. On 3 June 1965 [] (Ref. attached) visited IAD in regard to the capability of PI to furnish enough data to predict crop yields in China.

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2. [] was thoroughly familiar with work done by [] and others. We also pointed out the limited studies done by IAD on crop yields in Cuba, Russia (New Lands) etc.--emphasizing that a sufficient data base or PI Key comprehensive forecasting in China did not exist.

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3. It was suggested that before attempting to forecast crop yield in China that perhaps NPIC would contract for the development of a PI Key--as had been done in other subjects.

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[] was referred to [] This resulted, as I understand it, in a meeting called later by [] and attended by Mr.

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[] attended from IAD, [] ORD/DDS&T) and others.

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4. In brief, our feelings are as follows:

a. Experience in this country [] etc.) shows that a good key is needed in order to distinguish different crops, diseased from healthy crops, etc. etc. Such keys take a long time to develop and require considerable ground check or professional knowledge of crop conditions in the areas being interpreted.

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b. The PI can now do only scattered, inconclusive studies as far as accurately predicting the yield to be expected at some future date over wide spread areas of China. The key here is the phrase--"accurately predict"--which is what was specified by []

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c. The question of usefulness of satellite photography begs the issue until a satisfactory base, key, or compilation of professional crop data is available for China.

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5. If I am not mistaken [] of P&DS has a NPIC project number assigned for work performed as a result of the meeting referred to in 4 b above.

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Attachment:
As stated above

Distribution:
Cy 1 & 2 - Asst/Ops
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